

**From:** Whitney Williams  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/23/02 5:16pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I believe that the proposed settlement of the antitrust case against Microsoft is a bad idea, and I request that the United States not settle. In the findings of fact in this case (which are no longer disputed), the court found that Microsoft clearly exercised monopoly power; I am dismayed that they might be allowed to do so without substantive penalty. Reading the proposed settlement, I saw nothing more severe than behavioral restrictions of the sort which Microsoft has repeatedly circumvented and violated outright in the past.

I found particularly audacious the proposal that Microsoft should be allowed to introduce its product into schools. Gaining market share by selling to schools has, since long before Windows was written, been Apple's most successful strategy. Even now, education is the only market where Apple can still compete with Microsoft. Would it not be the very definition of predatory pricing to allow Microsoft to give away operating system software into this market?

As a Microsoft Certified Professional, I see first hand how monopoly power has degraded the quality of Microsoft's products. I see first hand how they raise technological barriers to interoperability to raise barriers to entry in application software markets.

As an American, I am appalled that Microsoft's flagrantly criminal behaviors may go without remedy. I am dismayed that my government would back away from a legal challenge to a company whose deep pocket has already crushed so much opposition, and I wonder why I pay taxes if not to protect American industry from predators like Microsoft. This is the single most important issue on which I will vote in the years to come.

Thank you for considering my opinion.

Whitney Williams  
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